

Critical Knowledges Across Borders

Workshop 3:

Part II

Poster Art and Civil Society



Sharing our Knowledge and Experiences

This workshop explores the creative potential of poster art for the resignification of the spaces we live in. Posters can define who we are, but they can also be seen as a powerful tool of communication: Through posters, we can create social bonds and move in partnership with others. For this session, we will ask participants to imagine how the places they live in looked like twenty years ago. Are there more spaces for women and children now? How have the spaces changed to help families be more welcome? How have spaces changed to be more friendly towards the environment? Then we will design a poster conveying a wish for transformation and/or a hope for a more sustainable future. In the workshop, we will collectively imagine how art can create more livable spaces for everyone.

Expanding our knowledge

After designing our posters, we will have a discussion around two main topics: the ways in which creative imagination about the future can help to bring about an alternative urban space beyond gender discrimination; and the ways in which the placement of posters in public spaces can become a way of creating bonds with other individuals and communities. To expand on our personal experience, we will examine

examples of poster art in which artists and communities channeled their hope through the creative customization of urban spaces.

A Creative Path towards a sustainable Civil Society

Borrowing from our experiences with poster art, we will finish this section by thinking about other creative ways of being in public space with the objective of making it more resilient and welcoming for everybody. The future is often presented as an unattainable reality, external to our desires. In times of environmental collapse, through poster art we can see how creative interventions can help to create a more livable future. Through the act of imagining how we want our cities to look in twenty years, we are actually bringing the future closer to our everyday reality.

“Agency is a modest but relentless call to creative action, one small step at a time” Doris Sommer



Image: *Ladybugs* (1998) - Jorge Vieira (1922 -1998) Lisbon, Portugal. Photograph by Pedro Ribeiro Simões